
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 10, 2003

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SENATOR GREGG, SENATOR SUNUNU AND CONGRESSMAN BRADLEY ANNOUNCE \$1 MILLION FOR MOOSE MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION HEADING THROUGH CONGRESS

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Senator John Sununu (R-NH) and Congressman Jeb Bradley (R-NH) today announced that the Senate version of the Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations bill, approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee this afternoon, contains \$1 million in federal funding for the protection of 4,200 acres at Moose Mountain. This funding, provided through the Forest Legacy program, will support conservation easements on two tracts that will remain under private ownership, with permanent easements that prevent development and maintain public recreation areas. The project is the result of a partnership between Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and the NH Fish and Game Department. The Senate Interior Appropriations bill, which is now ready for consideration by the entire Senate, provides \$84.7 million for Forest Legacy programs nationwide. The Moose Mountain/Beaver Brook Forest straddles Alton, Brookfield, Middleton, and New Durham.

Senator Gregg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, stated, "This tract of land is a critical link in the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways system, and the protection of its water resources, beautiful open spaces, wildlife habitat and recreational and scenic areas is essential to maintaining its character. As the Seacoast area continues to grow and its population increases, the Moose Mountain land, which is the first significant mountain range and tract of forest land north of the Seacoast, needs constant stewardship. And in the true New Hampshire spirit, the effort is being driven by local leaders and community groups taking an interest in the protection of their environment."

"Forest Legacy program resources will play a valuable role in helping to preserve Moose Mountain lands - a forest corridor at the head of the Piscataqua watershed, which feeds into the Great Bay National Estuary," said Senator Sununu, who as a Congressman strongly supported the project since first meeting with Moose Mountain Regional Greenways officials in Wakefield on March 18, 2002. Continuing to push for funding in the Senate, Sununu wrote a March 28, 2003 letter to the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior urging that monies be included in the FY 2004 Interior Appropriations bill. "The land supports a continuous biodiversity of flora and fauna and provides the opportunity for a wide range of recreational activities including hunting, trapping, cross country skiing, and hiking. The Greenways' dedication and partnership with state, regional, and local governments on this land conservation priority is to be commended."

Congressman Bradley stated, "I commend Senator Gregg for working to include this funding for Moose Mountain in the Senate version of this bill, and sincerely hope it is worked in to the House version. This land conservation includes Caverly Mountain in Alton, which has one of the finest views of Lake Winnepesaukee and the White Mountains in all of New Hampshire."